



2014

Annual Report

California Academy of Sciences





Welcome Letter

At the California Academy of Sciences, innovation is a part of our DNA. In fact, the Academy was the first natural history institution west of the Mississippi and the first public museum in San Francisco. Our history has been punctuated by many other impressive firsts—from hosting the nation’s first live-broadcast science television show to becoming the world’s greenest museum.

In 2014, a change in leadership marked the start of another chapter in this organization’s story. Jerome Vascellaro took on the role of Chairman of the Academy’s Board of Trustees and Jon Foley arrived in August as the Academy’s new Executive Director. With a background in environmental sustainability, Jon has partnered with the Board and the Academy’s Senior Leadership Team to shape the science and issues that will determine our collective future on a global scale.

In 2014 the Academy took on the challenge of our mission—to Explore, Explain, and Sustain life—with groundbreaking programs in science education and research. Here are some highlights from the year.

- » As the first science content partner for online education hub Khan Academy, the Academy launched a [seven-part course on biodiversity](#) that has already helped 600,000 viewers appreciate the importance and fragility of life on our planet.
- » The Academy acquired [iNaturalist](#)—a social network and mobile application that enables citizen scientists to share biodiversity observations—and dramatically

increased our ability to rapidly create species distribution datasets. Since its launch in 2008, more than 1.4 million users around the world have used the iNaturalist app, with a new observation recorded every 45 seconds.

- » From advising the Philippine government on the creation of a new coastal development plan to working with local communities to protect the last stands of forest in Ethiopia, the Academy’s [Institute on Biodiversity Science & Sustainability](#) (IBSS) had an impact that went far beyond our building’s footprint.
- » The groundbreaking [Science Action Club](#) program—an afterschool program for middle school youth with authentic, hands-on science experiences—expanded to 19 sites across the Bay Area, and laid groundwork for nation-wide expansion.
- » Nearly 2,600 students who couldn’t visit the Academy in person took a virtual fieldtrip through our pioneering [Connect to Classrooms](#) program, which enables classrooms across the country to talk to our scientists about their research, learn about the role our African penguins play in a species survival plan, and much more.
- » With nearly 46 million scientific specimens from around the world, the Academy’s [research collections](#) provide one of the best records of life on Earth. In 2014, this vast library of life was used by thousands of scientists around the world, both in person and online, to help track the spread of disease, predict the impact of climate change, and much more.

» The [Careers in Science](#) internship program for high school students underrepresented in the sciences supported 38 interns and more than 200 alumni—many of whom are now practicing, teaching, or communicating about science professionally.

These programs would not be possible without a transformative gift from the Pisces Foundation, which allowed us to bring environmental education programs beyond the Academy's walls to a global population in 2014. The Pisces Foundation is joined by generous support from The Kimball Foundation, Diana Nelson and John Atwater, Genentech, Inc., the S. D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation, the Wells Fargo Foundation, the City and County of San Francisco's Department of Children, Youth & Their Families, and many others in our efforts to educate and inspire the world on critical science topics.

As we look to the future, it is clear that the Academy's scientific foundation is more important now than ever before. Our research collections and scientists inform all Academy exhibits and education programs, bringing authenticity and distinctiveness to everything the Academy does. For example, the crown jewel of this year's [Skulls](#) exhibit was 640 jaw-dropping sea lion specimens that lined the walls and filled the cases. [NightLife](#), the Academy's award-winning Thursday night program for adults 21+, welcomed over 115,000 young people to the museum in 2014, and every one of those guests got the chance to interact with an authentic scientist.

Academy scientists answer pressing questions about our planet and its future. In 2014, the Academy welcomed renowned canopy ecologist Meg Lowman as our inaugural Chief of Science and Sustainability—the first step in a bold plan to dramatically accelerate the application of our research findings to solving the world's most pressing conservation challenges.

As a part of this initiative, the Academy is planning to increase our investment in science in the coming year, supporting our scientific collections and staff with added resources. Donor-supported initiatives like the [Patterson Scholars](#) endowment campaign will make this commitment possible and firmly establish the Academy as one of the most trusted, capable champions of science-based sustainability solutions on the planet.

Thank you for making 2014 such a productive and exciting year here in San Francisco and around the globe. As donors, members, scientists, volunteers, and visitors, you ensure that our Academy ecosystem thrives—and enable us to Explore, Explain, and Sustain life on Earth.

Warm regards,

Jonathan Foley, PhD

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Every gift enables the Academy to open eyes and minds to the natural world and the role we all can play in sustaining it. Generous supporters make new perspectives possible and inspire our great gratitude.



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City and County of San Francisco

Steinhart Aquarium

Institute of Museum and Library Services

National Leadership Grant
One Truth, Many Lies:
A New View of Art and Natural Collections

National Institutes of Health

Biodefense and Infectious Diseases

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Curation of Chuckchi Sea Invertebrates
Enhancing Response and Data Collection from Dead Stranded Marine Mammals in Northern California
Expanding Response to and Data Collection for Dead Stranded Marine

Mammals in Northern California, Specifically Sonoma County
Improving Staff and Volunteer Qualifications in order to Enhance Response and Data Collection from Dead Stranded Marine Mammals in Northern California
REPP Connectivity
Pully Ridge

National Science Foundation

Assessing Phylogeny and Biogeography in a Mega-diverse Tropical Plant Family (Melastomataceae)
Collaborative Research: Biotic Surveys of Central Saharan Oases
Collaborative Research: Cal Bug, An Interactive Database Using Arthropods to Examine Impacts of Climate & Habitat Modification

Collaborative Research:

CSBR: Natural History Collections:
Geoconferencing
US Fish Collections:
A Community-Based Model to Geoconferencing Natural History Collections
Collaborative Research: Digitization
TCN: Developing a Centralized Digital Archive of Vouchered Animal Communications Signals
CSBR: Natural History Collections: Liquid Nitrogen Facilities for Biological Specimen Curation
Documenting Diversity in the Apex of the Coral Triangle: Inventory of Philippine Marine Biodiversity
ELT Collaborative Research:

Restructuring of Terrestrial Environments
Following the Permian Triassic Mass Extinction
GIRLS RISEnet
Global Names Architecture
Harnessing the Power of Herbaria to Understand the Changing Flora of CA
Improving Competency in Elementary Science Education
Integrating Multidisciplinary Tools to Study Plio-Pleistocene Paleocology of Early Hominins from the Omo Valley, Ethiopia
Integrative Species Discovery & Comparison of Multilocus Species Delimitation Methods in Short Range Endemic Harvest

Ontology Enabled Reasoning
PBI: A Complete Web-based Monograph of the Tribe Miconieae
Phylogeography in Madagascar
REU Biodiversity Science in Summer Institute California Academy of Sciences
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*A juvenile Jackson's chameleon (*Trioceros jacksonii*).*

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This waxy monkey frog (Phyllomedusa sauvagii) is one of over 38,000 live animals on exhibit in the aquarium.

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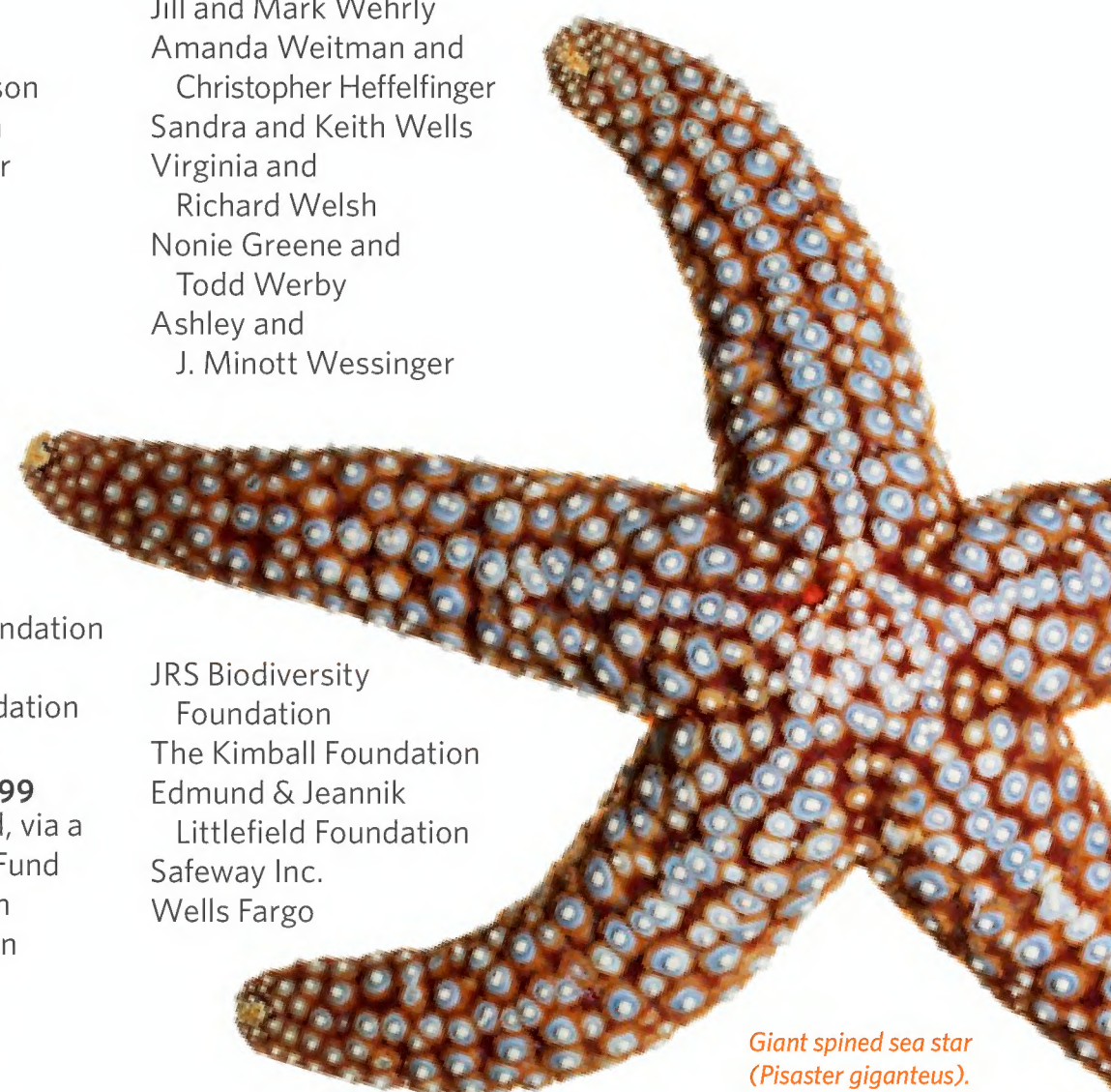
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Giant spined sea star
(*Pisaster giganteus*).

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This colorful Brazilian rainbow boa (Epicrates cenchria cenchria) joins a green anaconda on exhibit in the Academy's rainforest.

In-Kind

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This African four-toed hedgehog (Atelerix albiventris) is one of several animals featured in daily programs on the museum floor.



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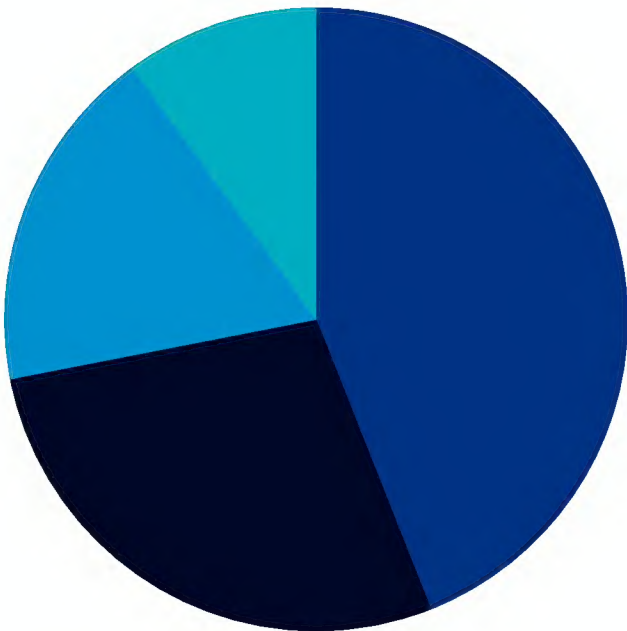
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Careful stewardship of financial resources is key to growing the Academy’s impact at a time when science—advancing it, understanding it, sharing it—is essential to life on Earth.

OPERATING REVENUE AND EXPENSES

Revenue	2014	2013
Earned Revenue	29,624,217	31,654,409
Contributions	19,069,666	15,749,348
Endowment Transfers	12,374,536	9,925,499
Government Grants	6,444,838	6,706,685
Total Revenue	\$67,513,257	\$64,035,941
Expenses		
Exhibits & Public Engagement	20,175,068	19,784,831
Biodiversity Science	11,952,665	11,247,817
Education & Outreach	11,786,749	12,521,005
Aquarium	8,826,076	8,413,106
Management & General	7,770,907	5,370,780
Development & Membership	7,001,792	6,698,402
Total Expenses	\$67,513,257	\$64,035,941



- 2014 Revenue**
- 44% Earned Revenue
 - 28% Contributions
 - 18% Endowment Transfers
 - 10% Government Grants

FINANCIAL POSITION

Assets	2014	2013
Investments	439,234,517	422,473,193
Property & equipment, less depr.	380,427,626	389,073,152
Receivables	31,194,970	35,711,305
Other	3,966,280	3,751,816
Total Assets	\$854,823,393	\$851,009,466
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	7,515,655	6,985,185
Deferred Income	5,268,903	4,537,125
Bonds Payable	281,450,000	281,450,000
Other Long-term Liabilities	257,207	253,320
Total Liabilities	\$294,491,765	\$293,225,630
Unrestricted Net Assets	426,962,504	429,857,969
Temporarily Restricted	69,472,491	68,945,658
Permanently Restricted	63,896,633	58,980,209
Total Net Assets	\$560,331,628	\$557,783,836
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$854,823,393	\$851,009,466



- 2014 Expenses**
- 30% Exhibits & Public Engagement
 - 18% Biodiversity Science
 - 17% Education & Outreach
 - 13% Aquarium
 - 12% Management & General
 - 10% Development & Membership

Leadership

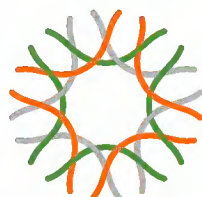
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